

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 SP-02

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:SMBELL:JLP

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

ARA:HARYAN

ARA/MEX:JDREYFUSS (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 156112

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: ECHEVERRIA
REQUEST FOR BRIEFING

REF: MEXICO 5857

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM ROGERS

1. IN BRIEFING PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA YOU MAY WISH TO
REFER TO DEPARTMENT'S APPRECIATION OF HIS DESIRE TO KEEP
HIMSELF ABREAST OF THIS SENSITIVE AND COMPLEX MATTER. AT
THE SAME TIME YOU SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE WOULD NOT
WANT TO IMPOSE ON HIS GENEROSITY BY PRESUMING TO USE HIM
AS A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS. (FYI - WE HAVE PERFECTLY
SATISFACTORY, INFORMAL, DIRECT CHANNELS TO TORRIJOS.)

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THIS INFORMATION ON THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE

PRESENTED AS FOR HIS PERSONAL BACKGROUND AND FOR USE IN WHAT IN HIS JUDGEMENT ARE THE BEST INTERESTS OF HEMISPHERIC AND WORLD PEACE AND CONCILIATION.

2. IN YOUR MEETING YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. AT PRESENT WE HAVE NO PROBLEMS SUCH AS TO INDICATE ANY NEED FOR QUOTE OUTSIDE UNQUOTE HELP. AS

DEMONSTRATED AT THE OASGA, NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING SLOWLY, CAREFULLY, AND SATISFACTORILY.

B. OUR PROBLEMS AT THIS JUNCTURE ARE MAINLY DOMESTIC -- THE SNYDER AMENDMENT; OUR FORTHCOMING ELECTORAL PROCESS. THEY ARE NOT EASY ONES TO RESOLVE. BUT WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE NEGOTIATION.

C. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND ECHEVERRIA'S AND MEXICO'S INTEREST IN THE NEGOTIATION AND ITS SUPPORT OF PANAMA'S ASPIRATIONS.

D. WE SHARE HIS VIEWS ON THE STERILITY AND DANGER OF CONFRONTATION AND WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF HIS ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE IN MINIMIZING SUCH POSSIBILITIES.

3. FULLER DETAILS ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATION WHICH, AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY PROVIDE ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. THUS FAR THE PARTIES HAVE REACHED CONCEPTUAL AGREEMENT ON THE NEGOTIATING ISSUES OF (I) CANAL OPERATION, (II) CANAL DEFENSE, AND (III) THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION BY PANAMA AND QUOTE RIGHTS OF USE UNQUOTE BY THE UNITED STATES. THEY HAVE ALSO REACHED PRELIMINARY ACCORD ON STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT.

B. THE REMAINING MAJOR ISSUES ARE (I) THE QUESTION OF EXPANDING THE EXISTING CANAL AT SOME FUTURE DATE; (II) THE DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES OF LAND/CONFIDENTIAL

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WATER AREAS IN THE PRESENT CANAL ZONE; (III) THE LEVEL OF COMPENSATION TO PANAMA FOR THE USE OF ITS TERRITORY, AND (IV) THE LENGTH OF THE NEW TREATY, AS APPLICABLE TO CANAL OPERATION AND TO CANAL DEFENSE.

C. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE PARTIES WILL TREAT THE REMAINING ISSUES AS A QUOTE PACKAGE, UNQUOTE SINCE THEY ARE THE MORE DIFFICULT ONES TO RESOLVE AND LEND THEM-

SELVES TO BARGAINING.

D. FOLLOWING AGREEMENT ON THOSE ISSUES, THE PARTIES WOULD BE IN POSSESSION OF A QUOTE CONFIGURED TREATY, UNQUOTE AD REFERENDUM TO GOVERNMENTS. THEREAFTER THEY WOULD PROCEED TO NEGOTIATE MINOR ISSUES AND BEGIN THE COMPLEX TASK OF DRAFTING TREATY LANGUAGE. NO TIMETABLE HAS BEEN SET. THE PARTIES ARE PROCEEDING CAREFULLY, METHODICALLY, WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED.

4. I HOPE YOU WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH SENATOR MANSFIELD HIS VIEWS ON SNYDER AMENDMENT AND ON HOW WE MIGHT BEST MOVE TO COUNTER IT. INGERSOLL

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